



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

Environment Committee

Thursday 23 June 2022, 9.30am

Taumata Kōrero, Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Members

Cr Gaylor (Chair)

Cr Connelly (Deputy Chair)

Cr Blakeley

Cr Brash

Cr Hughes

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Laban

Cr Lamason

Cr Lee

Cr Nash

Cr Ponter

Cr Staples

Cr van Lier

Barbie Barton

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Environment Committee

Thursday 23 June 2022, 9.30am

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council,
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

Public Business

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| 2. | Conflict of interest declarations | | |
| 3. | Public participation | | |
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Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 23 June 2022.

Report 22.189

Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 12 May 2022

Taumata Kōrero – Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.31am.

Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Blakeley
Councillor Brash
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand
Councillor Laban
Councillor Lamason
Councillor Lee
Councillor Nash
Councillor Ponter (from 10.01am)
Councillor Staples
Barbie Barton (remotely, via Microsoft Teams, until 10am)

All members participated at this meeting remotely and counted for the purpose of quorum in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Cr Blakeley / Cr Staples

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillors Hughes and van Lier, apology for lateness from Councillor Ponter, and apology for early departure from Barbie Barton.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

Heather and Donald Phillips spoke regarding pest pig control.

Noted: The Committee requested that officers review pig numbers on the Greater Wellington land in question, explore responding with further control measures if required, and report back the proposed course of action to the public participants and the Committee.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Committee meeting on 31 March 2022 - Report 22.140

Moved: Cr Laban / Cr Nash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 31 March 2022 - Report 22.140.

The motion was **carried**.

5 Update on Progress of Action Items from Previous Environment Committee Meetings – May 2022 – Report 22.150 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management, spoke to the report.

6 Environment/Catchment Update – May 2022 – Report 22.21 [For Information]

Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management, and Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Noted: The Committee requested that future Environment/Catchment Update reports include:

- A standing update on Transmission Gully
- A further update on Wairarapa water races, including further detail regarding stock exclusion regulations and water quality.
- An update on the main themes and information that arise from the Porirua wastewater treatment plant discharge consent hearing.
- An update regarding the formal recording of black coral in Kapiti.

Barbie Barton left the meeting at 10am, during discussion on the above item, and did not return.

Councillor Ponter arrived at 10.01am, during discussion on the above item.

7 Puketahā – Wainuiomata Ecosanctuary Feasibility Study – Oral Report

Councillor Nash provided an oral update on the progression and next steps related to the feasibility study. Conversations with the Department of Conservation continue, and a media piece featuring the proposed sanctuary and commentary from Greater Wellington, Taranaki Whanui and the Department of Conservation, recently aired on TV 3.

8 Crown Funded Projects update – May 2022 – Report 22.185

Wayne O’Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The public meeting closed 10.25am.

Councillor P Gaylor

Chair

Date:

Environment Committee
23 June 2022
Report 22.230



For Information

UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS – JUNE 2022

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the progress of action items arising from previous Committee meetings.

Te horopaki

Context

2. Items raised at Committee meetings, that require actions by officers, are listed in the table of action items from previous Committee meetings ([Attachment 1](#) - Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – June 2022). All action items include an outline of the current status and a brief comment.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

3. There are no financial implications from this report, but there may be implications arising from the actions listed.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

4. Completed items will be removed from the action items table for the next report. Items not completed will continue to be progressed and reported. Any new items will be added to the table following this Committee meeting and circulated to the relevant business group/s for action.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

| Number | Title |
|---------------|---|
| 1 | Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – June 2022 |

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatory**

| | |
|---------|---|
| Writers | Al Cross – Kaiwhakahaere Matua mo te Taiao/General Manager, Environment Management Wayne O’Donnell – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whaitua/General Manager, Catchment Management |
|---------|---|

| He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations |
|---|
| <i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The action items are of an administrative nature and support the functioning of the Committee. |
| <i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Action items contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's related strategies, policies and plans to the extent identified in Attachment 1 . |
| <i>Internal consultation</i> There was no additional internal consultation in preparing this report and updating the action items. |
| <i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts. |

Attachment 1 to Report 22.230

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

| Meeting date | Action | Status and comment |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 16 September 2021 | <p>Whaitua Implementation update – Report 21.409</p> <p>Resolution:</p> <p>Requests that officers report back to the Committee with an update on WIP implementation improvements including governance arrangements.</p> | <p>Status:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>A report will be brought to Council for the 30 June meeting.</p> |
| 31 March 2022 | <p>Update on the progress of action items – Report 22.86</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that an update on the broader engagement strategy relating to the Mangaroa wetland be provided.</p> | <p>Status:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>A strategy will be developed following the completion of formal court actions and will be informed by the outcome of current internal reviews.</p> |
| 12 May 2022 | <p>Public participation</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>The Committee requested that officers review pig numbers on the Greater Wellington land in question, explore responding with further control measures if required, and report back the proposed course of action to the public participants and the Committee.</p> | <p>Status</p> <p>Underway / Ongoing</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>The suggested approach is for a Forest ranger to run their dogs through this area of the forest once every three months as a work exercise for the purposes of tracking any increase or seasonality in pig numbers, destroying any located on Greater Wellington land and reporting back on those numbers to Greater Wellington and associated landowners. If numbers on Greater Wellington land get high we will consider getting a contractor involved.</p> |

Attachment 1 to Report 22.230

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

| Meeting date | Action | Status and comment |
|--------------|---|---|
| | | We will shortly reach out to the adjoining landowners to seek permission to also access their land as part of this programme which will be key to successfully reducing pig numbers in this area. |
| 12 May 2022 | <p>Environment/Catchment Update – May 2022 – Report 22.21</p> <p>Noted: The Committee requested that future Environment/Catchment Update reports include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standing update on Transmission Gully • A further update on Wairarapa water races, including further detail regarding stock exclusion regulations and water quality. • An update on the main themes and information that arise from the Porirua wastewater treatment plant discharge consent hearing. • An update regarding the formal recording of black coral in Kapiti. | <p>Status</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Noted - updates have been provided for Transmission Gully, the Porirua Wastewater treatment plant process and Wairarapa water races in the Environment/Catchment update below and will be provided in future reporting as necessary.</p> |

Environment Committee
23 June 2022
Report 22.22



For information

ENVIRONMENT/CATCHMENT UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To inform the Environment Committee (the Committee) of Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibilities.

Te horopaki

Context

Regional issues

Regional Flood Vulnerability Assessment

2. The Flood Protection Department is nearing the completion of the Wellington regional flood vulnerability assessment. This study has developed a new regional rapid flood model to assist with strategic planning activities and is conducting an exposure assessment for a range of social and economic indicators in light of development and climate change predictions. Initially this will be used to inform longer term flood risk management planning within Greater Wellington and to support the Wellington Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment.

Flood Forecasting and Response

3. Flood Protection is working with our ICT department and specialist flood forecasters in the Netherlands to procure and develop a flood forecasting platform and flood forecast models for operational use in the Wellington Region. This is part of our ongoing improvements programme to our response and warning capabilities. Flood Protection has been workshopping catchment specific flood information and trigger levels with the Hutt Emergency Operation Centres to re-confirm roles and responsibilities and key triggers.
4. Flood Protection have been working closely with ICT to develop a Digital Roadmap for flood risk management that will seek to improve data management, digital communications and improvements to the advisory service. This project is due to be completed in the next month.

Flood Risk Management Climate Change Approach

5. Flood Protection has been working with Wellington Water and the territorial authorities to assess our climate change approach in flood hazard models and district plans. Flood

Protection hosted a regional workshop in May 2022, bringing together over forty specialists from across the region to discuss the challenges and opportunities to align. This will result in the draft policy and guidance for climate change allowances in flood modelling to be finalised and brought back to the climate committee for endorsement.

Flood Incidents

6. There has been no significant damage from flood incidents this quarter. However the team continues to respond to minor events across the Region as a result of the current unsettled weather. There has only been minor damage watercourses to our assets across the region. The most significant matter to date has been in the Waikanae where floodwater over the weekend of the 11/12 June 2022 deposited significant debris on the berms and damaged the walking trails which will take some time to clear.

Draft Regional Policy Statement Change 1

7. At the 26 May 2022 Council meeting the draft Regional Policy Statement (RPS) Change 1 was approved to go out for statutory consultation (under Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) Schedule 1 clause 3(1)). This is now with mana whenua, Ministers and territorial authorities with feedback due by 13 July 2022. We are continuing to work with our mana whenua partners to progress work on all aspects of RPS Change 1, with a focus on Te Mana o te Wai and freshwater visions. We have offered briefings and feedback sessions with Territorial Authorities, the Farming Reference Group, and Greater Wellington departments. We have received significant input from Rangitāne ō Wairarapa, Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa and Ngāti Toa Rangatira on the draft RPS changes so far. Input is now progressing from Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and Ngā Hapū ō Ōtaki. Liaison with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust is continuing to provide support to input to the process also.

Submissions on city and district council intensification plans

8. Intensification plan changes are required for Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, and Upper Hutt City Councils and Kāpiti Coast District Council under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development by August 2022. Officers are working alongside planning staff of these councils to align the plan changes as much as possible with draft RPS Change 1 prior to notification. Details of specific feedback is discussed in each whaitua section below.

Restoration Day 2022

9. Most of the events that make up Restoration Day happened on the weekend of 28/29 May 2022. A webinar focused on shifting how people value Wairarapa Moana began with a keynote by Rawiri Smith. A fish monitoring workshop and a talk about landscape scale restoration and Te Mana o Te Wai were the other events held that weekend. 150 people attend the events. The webinar was recorded and will be shared through our networks and usual communication channels.

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

10. The Ministry for the Environment have released an exposure draft of the National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB). This draft reflects changes made following public consultation on the proposed NPS-IB in March 2020 and is specifically seeking feedback on workability. Regional councils will provide feedback as a collective

and we are anticipating writing a Greater Wellington officers' submission in addition to this.

The Key Native Ecosystem and Wetland Restoration programmes

11. Region-wide pest control and other biodiversity management operations have been confirmed for next financial year. This includes operational delivery work at over 100 high value biodiversity sites.

Transmission Gully

12. A high level summary programme has been provided by the Project showing that a number of additional consents and approvals will be sought between now and early 2023. Works will be occurring onsite until early 2024, with relatively limited works planned over the 2022 winter period. We are trying to gain a more detailed understanding of the extent of the earthworks and streamworks required to complete the project.

Significant Regulatory Action

13. There are currently 12 RMA cases which are being dealt with at a Court level. This includes Prosecutions, Enforcement Order Proceedings, Abatement Notice Appeals, and Criminal Appeals. No further charges or proceedings have been initiated in this reporting period

Enviroschools

14. The Enviroschools team have recently contributed at the Enviroschools National Strategy Hui for Regional Coordinators, sharing their work on a new model for schools and centres to use for reflecting on their progress.

Winter planting, Land Management operations

15. Winter planting on private land, as part of farm environment plan action delivery, is well under way across the Region with 50,000 native plants already in the ground of a planned 280,000 for the season. These planting programmes have projects in all five Whaitua and will be the largest ever Land Management department native planting programme delivered in a winter season.

Hill country erosion

16. In mid-June Land Management will submit an application to the Ministry of Primary (MPI) Industries Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF) to support hill country erosion work over 2023-2027. MPI's available funds from the HCEF have been reduced by 20 percent from the 2019-2023 funding period. Total funding reduction and an increased priority for native planting will impact the delivery of the programme significantly.

Summer boating education program

17. A post season report was provided to Maritime NZ along with the final invoice for the funding. An application has been lodged for a larger scale campaign for the coming season.

Whaitua-specific issues

Te Whanganui-a-Tara

18. Work is continuing on the implementation of the Co-Government funded Climate Resilience projects (Flood Protection). A variation has been submitted to extend our contract term with Kānoa (Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment) by six months to reduce the cost of rock purchase by approximately \$1.8 million. We have received a positive response to the proposal and are awaiting final approval.
19. Flood Protection continues to work with Hutt City Council and Wellington Water over the provision of flood hazard information to support the District Plan review process currently being progressed by Hutt City Council. This is tracking towards the release of the Draft District Plan in September 2022.
20. Flood Protection has started work on the Waiwhetu Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) which will seek to identify options to provide protection to a 1 percent annual exceedance probability (100 year flood return) and allowing for climate change. This initial work includes scoping and procuring support to deliver technical investigations and engaging with key stakeholders and partners to develop a governance structure to support development of an FMP.
21. Flood damage repairs to the Korokoro debris arrestor are complete.
22. Preparation for securing an alliance partner for the construction of RiverLink is continuing with the current programme being to have a preferred partner identified by December 2022 and a contract in place by mid-2023. We are also exploring the opportunity to undertake early works with construction starting in November 2023.
23. The work on the McKenzie Steps replacement in East Harbour Regional Park has been completed. This was a challenging project given the location and steepness of the site. The end product now provides excellent access into the park from the Eastbourne shops area.
24. Parks has contracted Redtree Environmental Solutions (Redtree) to conduct trials of their Enviroblanket restoration technique (hydroseeding technology for native plants) in Regional Parks (Queen Elizabeth Park, Belmont, Baring Head, Parangarahu Lakes) over the next 12 months. This will test the scalability and costs for potentially using this technique more widely.
25. Site preparation is underway at Kaitoke for planting this winter under our Recloaking Papatuanuku Programme. Approximately 5ha will be planted.
26. Aerial spraying contracts have been completed by Biosecurity at the Wellington South Coast targeting boneseed as part of the Regional Pest Management Plan programme (with additional funding support from Wellington City Council and Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) programme) and Lake Kohangatera (part of Parangarahu Lakes Area KNE site) targeting the aquatic weed *Egeria* as part of the KNE programme. Both operations were completed without incident.
27. Biosecurity officers are surveying and controlling woolly nightshade (Eradication program) and climbing spindleberry (Sustained Control program) in Wainuiomata. A full service of the Wainuiomata Mainland Island (within Wainuiomata Orongorongo KNE site) has been delivered.

28. Remutaka Hill Road goat shooting in conjunction with Department of Conservation (DOC) has finished, with four mornings of road closures and around 400 animals killed. A wallaby sighting at the base of Remutaka Road in Kaitoke is being followed up by staff. Rabbit monitoring is underway.
29. Predator Free Wellington's Oruaiti Reserve trial site is very close to achieving zero rodent activity. On average 175 trap checks are needed to find one rat. 188 trail cameras are in operation. Volunteers are installing the control network into the Phase 2 area (Island Bay to CBD).
30. The Hutt Water Catchment Area / Kaitoke aerial 1080 operation was 78 percent completed on Friday 27 May, with 8,555 ha treated by four helicopters on a day affected by low cloud. Following heavy rainfall events in the operational catchments, flood response plans were triggered the following week which required Greater Wellington personnel to walk the Hutt River and Wellington harbour beaches searching for possum carcasses, placing warning signage through the area and implement a communications response alerting the public to potential dangers of encountering possum carcasses.
31. Greater Wellington's South Makara aerial 1080 operation and OSPRI's aerial 1080 operation that includes East Harbour Regional Park are awaiting fine weather so the pre-feed can be applied.
32. Officers are working with Wellington City Council planning staff to promote alignment between draft RPS Change 1 and the draft Wellington District Plan. The main opportunity for alignment is likely to be through the submissions process after notification. We are currently preparing feedback on the Upper Hutt City Council draft intensification plan change. The Hutt City Council draft intensification plan change is yet to be released.

Ruamāhanga

33. Erosion protection construction work will soon begin in Masterton on the Ruamāhanga River, adjacent to the historic Masterton landfill. This project is one of fifteen Co-Government funded Climate Resilience projects currently being implemented. The project is the first of three stages, protecting local residents and their homes as well as preventing the landfill from eroding into the awa.
34. Following the granting of resource consent to allow the continued operation of the Geoffrey Bundle Barrage Gates, an Operational Environmental Management Plan was submitted to, and certified by, Environmental Regulation. The next stage is the formation of a working group to determine alternative operating regimes for the Barrage Gates in anticipation of the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.
35. Flood Protection has commenced the planning for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review and Management Plan project. Works currently entail workshopping internally to understand the connections and links across Greater Wellington to present a holistic view to our mana whenua partners.
36. Flood Protection continues to work with the Wairarapa councils over the provision of flood hazard information to support the Combined District Plan review process

currently being progressed. This is tracking towards the release of the Draft District Plan in September 2022.

37. The Waiohine River Plan has been adopted by Council and work is progressing to plan the implementation of the actions identified with the community group. A meeting has been set up with the Chief Executives of the Wairarapa district councils for 15 June 2022 to discuss future aggregate supply in the Wairarapa.
38. The flood protection new rate outlined in the Waiohine River Plan for the two new stopbanks in Greytown and the proposed rate change outlined in the Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan have been through a hearings process on 17 May and will go to Council for approval on 30 June 2022 (as part of the approval of the 2022 Revenue and Financing Policy).
39. Lake Pounui KNE site's predator control network has been re-established and upgraded after falling into disrepair. Greater Wellington will fund ongoing support for servicing this trap network and supporting the landowners with other biodiversity/biosecurity projects.
40. Biosecurity have carried out Pindone carrot rabbit control operations in the catchment. Regional Possum Predator Control Programme (RPPCP) mustelid control at Te Whiti and Ruamāhanga sites is completed. We are also carrying out delimiting surveys and control work for woolly nightshade (Eradication program) and climbing spindleberry (Sustained Control program).

Stock exclusion

41. Greater Wellington's land use adaptation programmes continue to support action towards achieving stock exclusion requirements. Greater Wellington's proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) rules relating to stock exclusion from Category 2 waterbodies (concentrated in the Ruamāhanga whitua) come into effect on 31 2022. In recent years Greater Wellington has been supporting landowners to achieve stock exclusion through advice and funding from Greater Wellington's Riparian and Farm Environment Planning programmes. Central government's stock exclusion regulations through the National Environmental Standard - Freshwater come into effect over 2023 and 2025.

Water Race management

42. Water Races were originally installed in the early 1900s to deliver stock water to Ruamāhanga Valley farms. In addition to providing stock water, these water races provide services to aquatic ecosystems and storm water management. Water races are a service provided by Wairarapa Territorial Authorities which require consent from Greater Wellington for both water take and discharge to water.
43. Water races are included in the PNRP stock exclusion rules due to their contribution to water quality in the Ruamāhanga Whitua, however the national level water races are excluded from the National Environmental Standard - Fresh Water.
44. Staff are working with district councils to support communication to water race users on stock exclusion and supporting the territorial authorities with future asset management planning. Stock exclusion of water races has wider implications for long-term water race management. Land Management, Environmental Policy and

Environmental Regulation staff are working closely with Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils around the future of water race management.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua

45. Flood Protection is working with Wellington City Council to engage with landowners about erosion protection responsibilities on the Porirua Stream specifically in the Willowbank area.
46. Flood Protection has completed the comprehensive dam safety reviews on the Stebbings and Seton Nossiter detention dams which provide flood attenuation to the Porirua catchment. A programme of work is being planned to address the recommendations identified in the review.
47. Officers have provided feedback on Porirua City Council's draft intensification plan change to promote alignment with the draft RPS Change 1. We are continuing to work alongside planning officers as we both work towards notification for public submissions by August 2022.

Porirua Wastewater Treatment Plant resource consent process

48. A hearing is scheduled for the week of 13 June 2022 in front of a panel of 4 independent commissioners. The applicant has requested resource consent for a duration of 20 years. Over this time, the wastewater flow to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is expected to increase as a result of projected population growth in the catchment, and the applicant has proposed plant capacity upgrades and discharge volume limits to reflect this. In particular, the applicant is proposing undertaking capacity improvements, and all wastewater to be tertiary treated via ultra-violet disinfection which would deliver a better-quality wastewater discharge than is achieved at present. As previously reported there were 1371 submissions to the application (11 in support or conditional support of the proposal, 1351 in opposition and 5 neutral). The comments varied widely in nature – some examples include concerns over Mahinga kai and shellfish gathering, effects on coastal water quality, the water quality of Titahi Bay and Porirua Harbour, effects on social, recreational, and cultural values and public health and safety. At the time of writing this report, concerns remain from Ngāti Toa (around the mitigation measures) - and further detailed evidence was being prepared by Ngāti Toa in this regard to be addressed at the hearing (noting also that the original submission from Ngāti Toa recommends that the consent be granted).

Porirua City Council riparian restoration projects

49. Land Management staff are collaborating with the Porirua City Council Riparian programme by providing land management and riparian advice on their 70,000 native tree programme for this winter. The sites to be planted are on private and public land, including sites on Belmont and Battle Hill regional parks. Land Management is co-funding several sites to extend environmental benefit where it falls outside of the Porirua City Council Riparian Programme scope.

Technical Action Plan for Pouewe and Takapu WMU

50. Land Management staff are collaborating with Environmental Science to develop a technical action plan for the Pouewe and Takapu water management units. Through

overlaying catchment features with sediment source information to outline the highest value actions to achieve water quality improvement.

Kāpiti Coast

51. A planting day will be held at a key restoration site on the Ōtaki and Porirua Trust Board land beside the Waitohu stream on 2 July 2022. This day demonstrates the effectiveness of Greater Wellington's partnership with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki through the Mahi Waiora Waitohu prototype team and the Integrated Catchment Management Agreement. The planting day also showcases some of the team's work to develop īnanga (whitebait) spawning habitat, to improve stream ecology through riparian restoration and to bring numerous community audiences together to see and talk about the stream, with a view to supporting the development of a catchment community. We anticipate 60-70 attendees.
52. Flood Protection staff are working with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki to scope a project to develop a management plan for the Ōtaki quarry lake. A Tiriti House approach is proposed within each level of the project governance.
53. Flood Protection staff engaged WSP to design a shared path connecting Te Roto Road (near the Ōtaki racecourse) to Greater Wellington owned land near the Ōtaki quarry lake, and on to both the Ōtaki River and to the proposed shared path along the new expressway. Opportunities to secure funding from parties other than Greater Wellington are being pursued for this project. The level to which the accessway is developed will depend on how much external resourcing can be secured and we will keep Council up to date with progress on this. A community approach to Government to secure some funding has been unsuccessful.
54. Flood Protection are working to understand the effects of climate change and gravel build up on the level of service in the Waikanae Catchment. We are continuing to support the Ki Uta ki Tai group facilitated by DOC.
55. Flood Protection staff are working with the Friends of the Waikanae River to identify and prepare a native planting site to be planted this winter.
56. The partnership project with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki to develop a long term plan for flood risk management in the Waitohu stream is continuing with options currently being assessed by a specialist hydraulic modeller.
57. Site preparation is underway at Queen Elizabeth Park for planting this winter under our Recloaking Papatuanuku Programme. Approximately 30ha will be planted.
58. Biosecurity have completed boat and ground based control of Manchurian wild rice at Te Harakeke as part of the National Interest Pest Response programme. We are carrying out delimiting surveys and control work for woolly nightshade (Eradication programme) and climbing spindleberry (Sustained Control program). Rabbit monitoring is underway, as are Pindone carrot rabbit control operations. RPPCP mustelid control at Ōtaki and Haruatai is completed.
59. The Te Horo wetland restoration/creation project has recommenced with plans to now progress with a site level survey and recommence stream flow/groundwater investigations of the site over the next few months. The investigations are helping us to finalise design plans for both creation of the constructed wetland area on the property

and hydrological restoration of an existing natural wetland. This project is being used as a prototype for hydrological wetland restoration and constructed wetland creation for biodiversity and water quality purposes on private land. The project is being managed by Biodiversity and Land Management and involves staff from Environmental Science, Flood Protection and contractors.

- 60. Officers have provided feedback on Kāpiti Coast District Council’s draft intensification plan change to promote alignment with the draft RPS Change 1. We are continuing to work alongside planning officers as we both work towards notification for public submissions by August 2022.
- 61. The black coral sample collected from the north end of Kapiti Island in March has been provisionally identified as *Antipathella fiordensis*, the same species as is found in Fiordland. However, this colony has a denser branching arrangement than those found in Fiordland, so Greater Wellington and DOC have co-funded NIWA to carry out genetics work for a more formal identification. The genetics analyses are proving challenging and we are still waiting on these results. We hope to have something in July 2022. Meanwhile we are thinking about a cross-agency and community-based programme to locate other colonies within the marine reserve boundaries.

Wairarapa Coast and Eastern Hills

- 62. Biosecurity have completed eight days of pest plant control work at Cape Palliser KNE site.
- 63. The KNE programme has agreed with the Aorangi Restoration Trust (ART) and private landowners to fund monthly trapping work along the Opouawe River primarily to protect nesting banded dotterels. This project will be incorporated into the KNE programme as its newest KNE site working in partnership with ART and landowners to protect this braided river ecosystem. Greater Wellington had previously supported this project through other funding programmes to support its set up but will now receive ongoing financial and technical support through the KNE programme. Greater Wellington will continue to work with ART in developing the biodiversity management operations at this KNE site with an aim to include weed control, bird monitoring, wetland and dune protection as the relationship develops.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatories**

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Approvers | Al Cross – General Manager, Environment Management Ali Caddy – Acting General Manager, Catchment Management |
|-----------|--|

| He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations |
|---|
| <i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider all matters across the development and implementation work programmes of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups. |
| <i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> Development and implementation of related work programmes falls under the core activities of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. |
| <i>Internal consultation</i> Internal consultation was limited to officers of Greater Wellington's Catchment Management and Environment Management Groups. |
| <i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> This report covers the full breadth of work programmes, and equally a broad range of environmental, reputational, legal, financial, and Health, Safety and Wellbeing risks and implications are associated. |

Environment Committee
23 June 2022
2022.286



For Information

SUBMISSION ON THE NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To inform the Environment Committee (the Committee) that an Officers' Submission will be prepared on an exposure draft of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The New Zealand Government has released an exposure draft of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB). The Government is seeking submissions on the NPS-IB which are due on 21 July 2022. Gazettal is scheduled for December 2022.
3. The purpose of the exposure draft is to test the *workability of the provisions* with key groups. The Government is particularly interested to receive feedback from practitioners, iwi/Māori, stakeholders and those highly familiar with the NPS-IB to ensure its provisions are able to be effectively implemented.
4. **Attachment 1** provides a summary of the NPS-IB. Implementation support is proposed through a draft implementation plan and three incentive pilots, details of which can be found on the Ministry for the Environment's website:
<https://consult.environment.govt.nz/biodiversity/npsib-exposure-draft/>
5. This iteration of the NPS-IB (an earlier 2011 draft was not progressed) was initially drafted by the non-governmental Biodiversity Collaborative Group in October 2018. The Government then further developed the draft NPS-IB.
6. In July 2019 Greater Wellington submitted comments to the Government on a revised draft as part of a targeted 'road testing' exercise.
7. From November 2019 to March 2020 the Government sought public feedback on the NPS-IB. They received 7000 submissions, including another one from Greater Wellington. Most submitters supported the intent of the NPS-IB.

**Te tātaritanga
Analysis**

8. Greater Wellington has twice (2019 and 2020) submitted detailed comments on the NPS-IB. Our officers have also regularly been involved in discussions with the Ministry for the Environment and the Department of Conservation on its policy drafting.
9. The Government is not seeking further input on the desirability of the NPS-IB or any of its policies. They are *only* interested in ensuring the direction can be implemented effectively.
10. We are therefore forming an Officers’ Submission on the NPS-IB which will draw solely on the technical expertise of Greater Wellington staff. We believe that this is appropriate given the limited scope of comments requested, and our detailed prior Council-level input.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei
Next steps**

11. Greater Wellington officers will write a submission on the NPS-IB and submit it to the Government on 21 July 2022.

**Ngā āpitihanga
Attachment**

| Number | Title |
|--------|---|
| 1 | National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity: Exposure draft summary |

**Ngā kaiwaitohu
Signatory/Signatories**

| | |
|----------|---|
| Writer | Jamie Steer – Senior Biodiversity Advisor |
| Approver | Ali Caddy – Manager, Biodiversity Al Cross – General Manager, Environment Management |

| |
|---|
| <p>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</p> |
| <p><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></p> <p>It is the Environment Committee's responsibility to consider national developments in environmental policy direction, including those related to biodiversity protection (Delegations Manual, section 2.3).</p> |
| <p><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></p> <p>A submission on the NPS-IB does not directly impact on Greater Wellington's key strategies and policies. However, gazettal of an NPS-IB will have significant impacts on Greater Wellington as it will necessitate changes to key policy direction (e.g., the RPS) and require substantive funding to implement its direction.</p> |
| <p><i>Internal consultation</i></p> <p>Development of this report was informed by conversations between the Environmental Policy and Biodiversity departments. These departments are most relevant to a decision on whether and how to submit on this policy direction. Many other departments will be involved in contributing to the submission.</p> |
| <p><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></p> <p>There are no significant risks associated with writing a submission on this NPS. This is because Greater Wellington's position on the NPS-IB has already been established through two previous submissions. As requested by Government, our submission will focus on the mechanics of implementation only.</p> |



National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Exposure draft summary

This document supports the release of an exposure draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB). It provides background about why we need the NPSIB, how the NPSIB has been developed and changed since consultation, and also provides a high-level summary of the provisions contained within the NPSIB. Those wishing to gain a deeper understanding of the NPSIB should read the full exposure draft.

Why does indigenous biodiversity matter?

Indigenous biodiversity is all the living organisms that occur naturally in Aotearoa New Zealand, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. Indigenous biodiversity includes mountain forests, regenerating bush, native scrub and grasslands, and native animals that make their homes there and in our productive landscapes and cities.

As New Zealanders, biodiversity is part of our identity. However, the indigenous plants and animals of New Zealand are in decline. Thousands of our native species have been identified as threatened with, or at risk of, extinction. Some of these native plants and animals will disappear forever if we don't work together to increase our national efforts to reverse the decline and restore what has been lost.

We have flora and fauna with unique qualities that are irreplaceable and found nowhere else in the world. This makes our indigenous biodiversity important, not only nationally, but internationally. Indigenous biodiversity is our inheritance and our responsibility.

Iwi, hapū and whānau have distinct and special connections to their land and the environment in their rohe. In te ao Māori, identity, wellbeing, knowledge and how the culture is nourished, are indivisible from the health of Papatūānuku (Earth mother). Humans are embedded in the environment, not distinct from it.

Our economic success also relies on our natural environment. It gives us a competitive advantage that underpins two of New Zealand's key industries, tourism and primary production. Indigenous biodiversity contributes to the success of farming, forestry and horticulture through ecosystem

services such as clean water, nutrient cycling, pollination, and protection from flooding. Safeguarding ecosystems and the services they provide is important for our future prosperity. Maintaining indigenous biodiversity and promoting its restoration has a positive impact on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The need for a National Policy Statement

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provides the main framework for maintaining and protecting indigenous biodiversity from adverse effects on private land (through sections 5, 6, 7, 30 and 31).

However, these provisions don't provide detailed direction and are often subject to different interpretation, application and monitoring by councils. This has led to repeat litigation costs, confusion, uncertainty and an undervaluing of biodiversity in decision making. We continue to lose our indigenous biodiversity and taonga – regardless of current efforts to protect and restore them.

The objective of the NPSIB is to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity in a way that:

- a) recognises tangata whenua as kaitiaki, and people and communities as stewards, of indigenous biodiversity; and
- b) provides for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities, now and into the future.

Managing Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) and other provisions in the NPSIB will ensure indigenous biodiversity is maintained overall, including no reductions in:

- the size of populations of indigenous species
- indigenous species occupancy across their natural range
- the properties and function of ecosystems and habitats
- the full range and extent of ecosystems and habitats
- connectivity between, and buffering around, ecosystems
- the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems.

The NPSIB is consistent with the purpose of the RMA, which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The NPSIB contains provisions which require:

- the identification of SNAs, consistently and comprehensively, using a set of ecological criteria which are well known to councils already. This will follow a robust process which involves partnering with landowners early, and the transparent sharing of information
- landowners to be recognised as stewards, and tangata whenua as kaitiaki, of indigenous biodiversity
- a nationally clear and consistent approach for managing and protecting indigenous biodiversity, which provides certainty and supports landowners' efforts to protect indigenous biodiversity
- a management approach for protecting SNAs focussed on managing the adverse effects of new subdivision, use and development
- existing uses to be provided for, where appropriate
- a consenting pathway for specific new uses where effects on indigenous biodiversity can be managed

- councils to work together with tangata whenua to identify and protect taonga species to the extent that tangata whenua would like this to occur
- the establishment of a more flexible regime for use and development of Māori land. This includes direction for councils to work in partnership with Māori landowners when developing resource management provisions to maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity and enable development and papakāinga (housing).

Creating a National Policy Statement

The need for a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity has been recognised since as early as 2000. The most recent attempt to create a National Policy Statement was in 2011, but was not progressed due to a lack of stakeholder agreement.

The first draft of the current proposed NPSIB was developed by the Biodiversity Collaborative Group between March 2017 and October 2018. The group comprised Forest and Bird, Federated Farmers, an iwi advisor to the Iwi Chairs' Forum, New Zealand Forest Owners' Association, Environmental Defence Society, and infrastructure industries.

The Ministry for the Environment and the Department of Conservation have worked together to further develop the Biodiversity Collaborative Group's draft National Policy Statement.

Changes to the proposed NPSIB from feedback

Consultation was held on a proposed NPSIB between November 2019 and March 2020, including two series of nationwide hui. During this time, over 7000 submissions were received with a majority supporting the intent of the NPSIB. Support for the policy outlined that it will:

- help address the decline in indigenous biodiversity in New Zealand
- clarify council responsibilities for implementing section 6(c) of the RMA, which requires the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna
- likely increase the ability of tangata whenua to exercise their rights as kaitiaki.

Read the [summary of the submissions](#).

Changes have been made to the proposed NPSIB in response to public consultation, what we heard at hui, and the submissions received. Changes were made as a result of specific submitter concerns about certain policies as well as to better translate original policy direction. This has culminated in the creation of the Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity exposure draft which has been publicly released.

Changes have been made in response to feedback to ensure that the NPSIB:

- adequately provides for activities which are important for peoples' economic wellbeing, such as farming, forestry and the provision of infrastructure and energy
- identifies indigenous biodiversity which is significant, and clearly outlines the process for managing effects on it without requiring SNAs to be split into 'high' and 'medium' categories
- recognises tangata whenua as kaitiaki and allows for development of Māori land in partnership with tangata whenua, including Māori landowners
- outlines management for geothermal areas and public land which previously only had placeholders.

Policy summary

Te Rito o te Harakeke

The NPSIB has Te Rito o te Harakeke as a fundamental concept to achieve an integrated and holistic approach to maintaining indigenous biodiversity. Te Rito o te Harakeke refers to the need to maintain the integrity of indigenous biodiversity. It recognises the intrinsic value and mauri of indigenous biodiversity as well as people's connections and relationships with it.

It recognises that our health and wellbeing are dependent on the health and wellbeing of indigenous biodiversity and that in return we have a responsibility to care for our indigenous biodiversity. It acknowledges the web of interconnectedness between indigenous species, ecosystems, the wider environment, and the community.

It acknowledges the status of iwi and hapū as kaitiaki in their rohe and the central role they have in protecting our indigenous biodiversity. It connects to all parts of the NPSIB and how it would be implemented by councils and communities on the ground.

Councils will work with tangata whenua to develop a local approach for giving effect to Te Rito o te Harakeke, identifying and protecting taonga species, and recognising te ao Māori in biodiversity management.

All land tenures are covered

The NPSIB will affect the management of biodiversity on all types of land including public, private and Māori land. Much of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity is on privately owned and managed land.

This includes ecosystems that are poorly, if at all, represented within public conservation land, such as lowland ecosystems. The NPSIB seeks actions from councils and landowners to show the vital role we all play in ensuring indigenous biodiversity is maintained.

Many farmers and other landowners all over the country are already doing outstanding work either voluntarily, in partnership with organisations such as the Queen Elizabeth II Trust (QEII) and Ngā Whenua Rāhui, or in partnership with their local council. Partnering with organisations such as QEII allows landowners to protect land with important biodiversity values through legal covenants in perpetuity, regardless of future changes in ownership. These covenants are similar to SNAs identified through the NPSIB, but there are some key differences. Covenants:

- may be used to help protect significant natural areas, but can also protect cultural values
- can protect biodiversity which is not yet significant, but has potential to be
- have strict restrictions on future use and development
- frequently require fencing and pest control.

Partnerships and collaboration between landowners, tangata whenua, communities, councils and public agencies is critical to the success of this National Policy Statement.

Regional councils will need to implement regional biodiversity strategies from mountains to seas to align communities behind a shared set of priorities and provide a strong link to [Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020](#).

Significant Natural Areas

The NPSIB requires councils to consistently identify areas with significant vegetation and habitats of significant indigenous fauna. Councils will need to manage their protection through regional and district plans, and consent processes under the RMA. The intent of these provisions is not to identify all indigenous biodiversity but to ensure the indigenous biodiversity that is most significant and precious is identified and protected.

SNAs would be identified by councils and ecologists working with landowners, using standard significance criteria outlined in the NPSIB and which are already widely used by councils. The NPSIB includes principles for councils to follow when identifying SNAs, such as: partnership and transparency. Councils will need to be clear about how information will be used, involve landowners early in the process, and outline support that is available to those with SNAs.

The NPSIB includes provisions to avoid and manage adverse effects from new activities that impact on the identified Significant Natural Areas. The intent is not to stop any new development from occurring, but to ensure that new uses and developments are able to avoid and manage any adverse effects they may have on significant indigenous biodiversity.

Identified taonga species

Previously there has not been a clear RMA process for hapū and iwi to proactively identify their kaitiaki responsibility to taonga species and ecosystems. The NPSIB sets out a framework to enable councils and tangata whenua to work together to identify ecological taonga by describing and mapping, or simply describing the taonga and its values. They can then work together to develop appropriate management controls which involve tangata whenua in managing these taonga to the extent they wish to be involved.

It is up to tangata whenua to determine at each stage of the process the extent of information provided, or its inclusion in plans. The NPSB also requires councils to develop processes to manage information provided about taonga species and to ensure confidentiality where required. Provision is made for the sustainable customary use of identified taonga species according to tikanga and consistent with their protection.

Other important biodiversity

Indigenous biodiversity that exists outside of SNAs is also important. Councils will be required to maintain indigenous biodiversity and manage adverse effects of new activities on indigenous biodiversity outside of SNAs.

The NPSIB also requires regional councils to record areas outside of SNAs that are highly mobile fauna areas, working together with tangata whenua, territorial authorities, and the Department of Conservation. This will increase knowledge of specified highly mobile fauna which are often difficult to detect, or only spend certain parts of the year in an area, but are threatened or at risk and impacted by land-use activities.

Managing particular land-use activities

For the following activities, the NPSIB has some specific management approaches that are different from SNAs in general.

For pastoral farming, some areas may be identified as SNAs (eg, gullies with indigenous forest, shrubland remnants, and grasslands with threatened species present). Farming will continue and councils will work with landholders to advise and support them on how to best manage SNAs to protect their values. Where maintenance of improved pasture is required, it will be able to continue within some parameters.

Some areas in plantation forests also have the potential to be identified as SNAs, as threatened or at-risk fauna may establish populations in these plantations. These areas of the productive forest must then be managed over the course of consecutive rotations so populations of these threatened or at-risk species are maintained. This ensures harvest is still able to occur. Areas of indigenous vegetation that are within the bounds of a plantation forest but do not constitute part of the harvestable forest and have been identified as SNAs, must be managed according to the standard SNA management approach.

Māori land, which includes treaty settlement land, has specific management provisions for local authorities to work in partnership with tangata whenua and Māori landowners to develop objectives, policies and rules which balance the maintenance and protection of indigenous biodiversity on Māori land, with the development of that land. This recognises the historic limitations to development on this land, as well as the prevalence of existing indigenous biodiversity on Māori land. However, these provisions do not apply to land that is also subject to legislation to protect indigenous biodiversity such as the Reserves Act 1977 or the National Parks Act 1980.

Mining and aggregate activities, as well as specified infrastructure, have a more permissive effects management regime which recognises their importance as an economic activity, as well as the fact they are often locationally constrained.

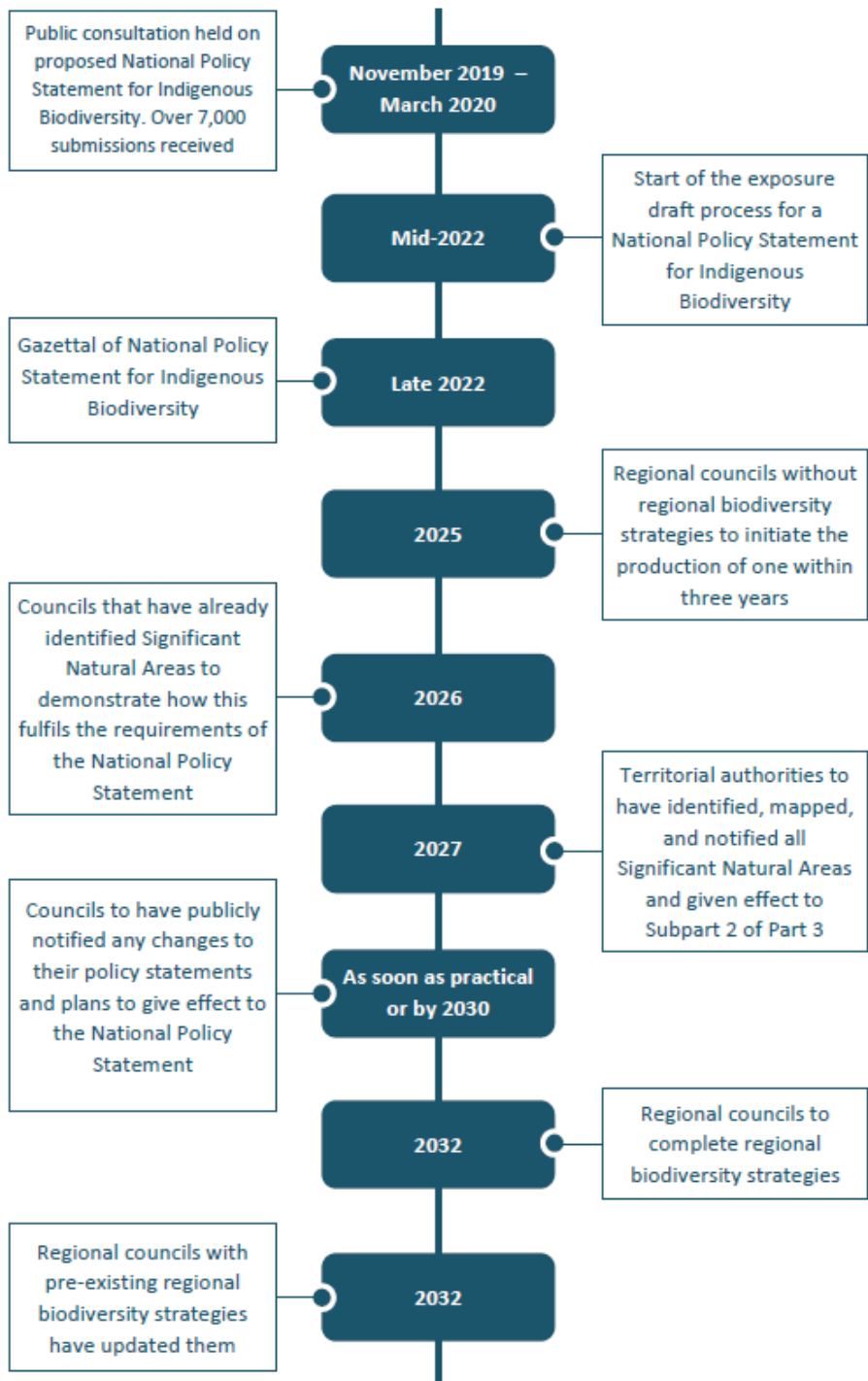
Geothermal SNAs also have a specific management regime. Councils will be required to develop plan provisions that provide a level of protection for a geothermal SNA that reflects the vulnerability of a geothermal SNA to use and development, or that reflects geothermal system classification where councils already have this management approach in place.

Restoring indigenous biodiversity

Restoration is an important part of maintaining New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. Some ecosystems in New Zealand have suffered so much loss the only way they can be maintained is through restoration and reconstruction. In 2014, there were 71 identified rare ecosystems, with 45 of them threatened with collapse. Wetlands are now only about 10 per cent of their pre-human extent.

The NPSIB will require councils to promote restoration of degraded SNAs, threatened and rare ecosystems, important buffering or connectivity areas, wetlands, urban areas or other areas that align with national priorities.

Timeline



Environment Committee
23 June 2022
Report 22.271



For Information

CROWN FUNDED PROJECTS UPDATE – JUNE 2022

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on the Crown funded projects and programmes.

Te horopaki

Context

2. The Government announced infrastructure investment funding to create jobs and progress COVID recovery. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) secured funding for regional projects, as outlined in [Attachment 1](#) – Crown funded projects and programmes – progress update presentation June 2022.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

3. The General Manager Catchment Management will speak to [Attachment 1](#) at the Committee's meeting on 23 June 2022.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachment

| Number | Title |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Crown funded projects and programmes – progress update June 2022 |

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatory

| | |
|--------|--|
| Writer | Wayne O'Donnell – General Manager Catchment Management |
|--------|--|

| He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations |
|--|
| <i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i> It is appropriate for the Committee to be informed of the progress of the Crown funded COVID-19 recovery projects as the projects in the Wellington Region relate to Council's environmental strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives, which address environmental issues in the Region. |
| <i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i> The update contributes to the delivery of the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project, Ruamāhanga River flood protection strategies, Predator Free Wellington, and 1 Billion Trees Partnership Project. |
| <i>Internal consultation</i> All Crown Funded projects are reported to the Greater Wellington Crown Funded Project Board, comprising representatives from Catchment, Environment and Corporate Services. |
| <i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i> There are no known risks or impacts. |

Crown Funded Covid Recovery Projects - Progress Update

The Projects:

Attachment 1 to Report 22.271

| FUND | FUNDER | PROJECT | TOTAL VALUE | GW CONTRIBUTION | JOBS CREATED | STATUS | ON TRACK / ACHIEVED |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------------|--|--------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | | DELATED / AT RISK |
| | | | | | | | OFF TRACK / NOT ACHIEVED |
| MfE | J4N | Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project Expansion | \$5M | \$1.5 | 2 FTE + staff support & DOC resources (2 FTE) | | |
| Kānoa | Shovel Ready | Climate Resilience Programme – Erosion Projects | \$20.8M | \$10M | 50 FTE (30 FTE) | | |
| Kānoa | Shovel Ready | Climate Resilience Programme – Major Projects | | | | | |
| MfE | J4N | Ruamahanga River buffer riparian planting | \$5M | \$2.5M | 1 FTE (1 FTE plus contractor labour) | | |
| PFW | PF2050 Ltd | Predator Free Wellington | \$7M | \$500K | 31 FTE (25 FTE) Up to 15 contractors (4 permanent) | | |
| 1BT | MPI | 1 Billion Trees – Hill Country Erosion | \$15M | \$7.4 (GW & landowner) | 6 FTE (100% MPI funded) (6 FTE) | | |
| 1BT | MPI | 1 Billion Trees Partnership Grant – Riparian/Parks/Biodiversity programme increase | \$4.5M | \$3.25M (GW & landowner) | 1 FTE (100% MPI funded) (11 estimated FTE) | | |
| MfE | Freshwater Improvement Fund | Improving Fish Passage in the Greater Wellington Region | \$4.6M | \$2.6M | 3 FTE for GW and 1 FTE for Ngāti Toa | | |

MfE – Ministry for the Environment • J4N – Jobs for Nature • MPI – Ministry of Primary Industries • PDU – Provincial Development Unit now known as Kānoa-RDU – Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit

J4N Wairarapa Moana Wetland Enhancement

Attachment 1 to Report 22.271

- **MfE has approved the Year 3 annual work plan.**
- **The Wairarapa Moana Project Team is now complete, with Ella Buckley and Sarah-Jane Jensen starting in May.**
- **11,500 plants are being planted at Lake Domain.**
- **Requests for comments on the Draft Restoration and Engagement plans have closed and are now being incorporated, ready for the next Wairarapa Moana Governance Group Meeting in July.**

Climate Resilience (previously Shovel Ready)

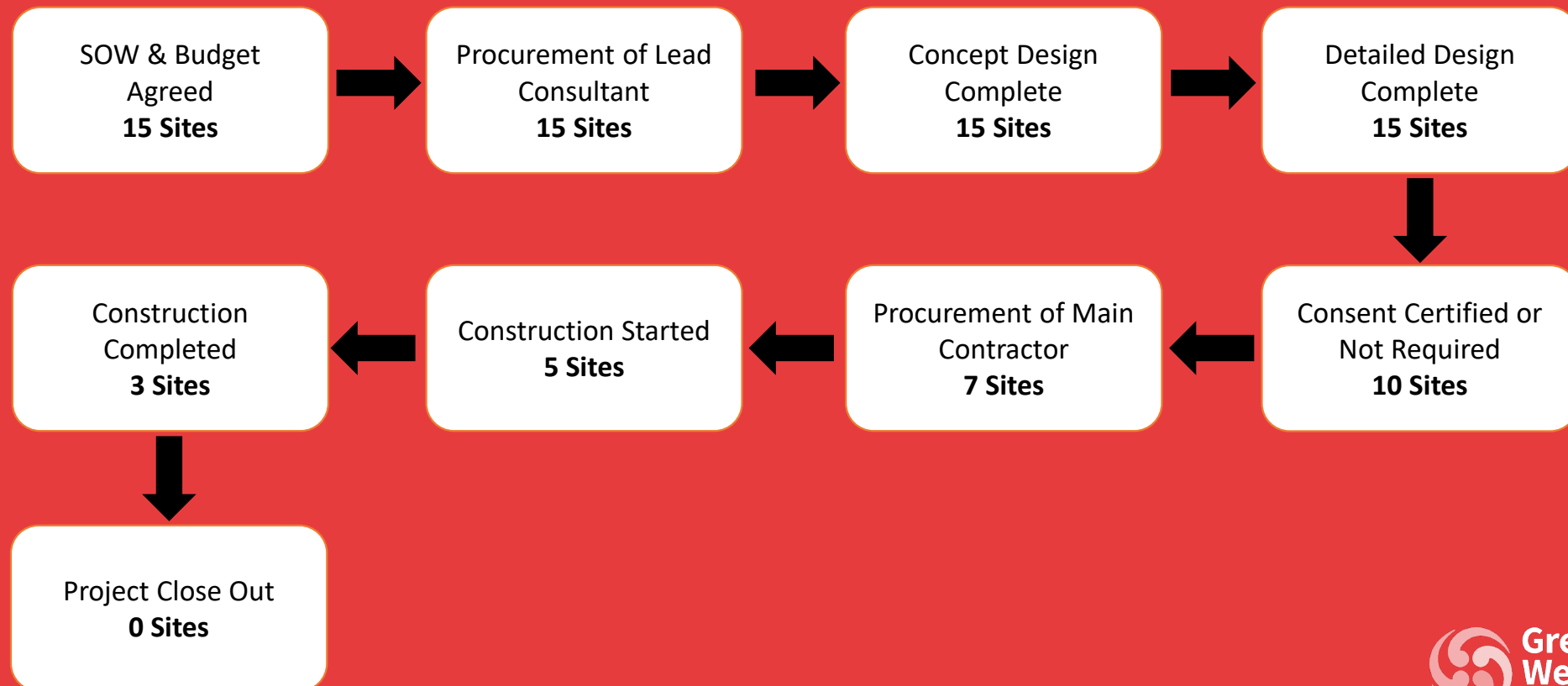
Two projects over 15 sites (3 sites are *complete*, 1 is currently *under construction*)

Consenting and construction processing as scheduled

Broader outcomes process:

- Supporting our contractors to focus on worker mental health:
 - *Promoting and enhancing mental wellness*
 - *Resources, support and training for suicide awareness and prevention*
- Initiative to strengthen iwi-Corrections relationships, facilitation support provided by GWRC program team
 - *Upcoming meeting between Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections)*
- Supporting growth of Māori businesses
 - *Mills Albert - local, Māori owned contractor procured for works at multiple sites*
- Wetland restoration project
- Specified program funding for professional development, life skills, mental wellness, etc.

Resilient River Communities Programme Overview – Feb. 2021



J4N Ruamāhanga River Riparian Planting

- Planting has started, approximately 38,000 plants
- Pest rabbit control activities are ongoing
- Fencing has started, approximately 4km
- Planning for planting and fencing in 2023 has started

Predator Free Wellington

- New strategy being devised, and steps taken to implement it. This strategy should devote a lot of focus on a smaller area while leaving fewer active areas alone for a period.
- Our prototype trial area – Oruaiti Reserve is very close to zero predators.
- Covid is still impacting staffing numbers.
- People occupying Mahanga Bay have now been served with a trespass notice
- Permission gathering Phase 2 continues, along with the community led buffer work. Bait stations and traps have been installed in this area.
- 200 trail cameras are currently in operation on the Miramar Peninsula, all of these cameras are checked once a week which is a large resource drain. We are looking at ways to have our community check our images.
- Ongoing recruitment to backfill vacant roles.

1 Billion Trees

- **Project is currently on hold until the recruitment of a new Restoration Coordinator is completed.**
- **Land Management Advisors have completed status check-ins for 2022 planting jobs to finalise planting projects and ensure sufficient planting is undertaken.**
- **Around 50,000 native plants are in the ground so far this season.**

Improving Fish Passage Project

- The Quarter 3 Year 1 report was approved by the Governance Group and accepted by MfE.
- The Project Field team have completed 54 fish passage assessments in Kaitoke Regional Park, East Harbour Regional Park and the Wainuiomata Water catchment area.
- A World Fish Migration day ‘fish passage remediation’ event led by ATS consulting was held for GW staff, Ngāti Toa and Porirua City Council staff demonstrating how to install low cost fish passage remediation options on 20 May 2022.
- The Project Team and Parks staff worked together to complete 10 fish passage remediations at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.
- A fish passage training day funded through the project was held for external organisations at Queen Elizabeth Park on 14th June 2022.
- Baseline monitoring –eDNA and spotlighting at a prospective remediation site in Kaitoke RP

Fish Passage project profile



Project benefits

- Help us identify the location of fish passage barriers in our region's waterways and target remediation funding in the priority waterways.
- Strengthens our knowledge and experience in using a range of options for remediating fish passage barriers.
- Monitoring will assist us in learning about how effective remediation measures have been.
- Provides us with opportunities to develop stronger relationships with landowners, mana whenua, communities and major infrastructure owners.



Project overview

- Project runs 1 January 2021- 30 June 2026 (4.5 years)
- Total cost: \$4.6 million
 - GW contribution \$2.6 million
 - MfE Freshwater Improvement Fund contribution \$2 million
- Project governance partners: GW, Ngāti Toa Rangatira
- Project advisory partners: Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, Department of Conservation, Porirua City Council, Wellington Water and Wellington City Council
- Employment of 4 FTEs during the project (3 at GW and 1 at Ngāti Toa)

Objective 1 commitments

- By June 2026, comprehensively assess instream structures, remediate and monitor fish passage barriers in 91 catchments of the Wellington region.
- The key activities under objective 1:
 - 1000 fish passage assessments
 - 450 fish passage barriers remediated – private land, GW structures, mana whenua and territorial authority projects
 - 9 fish passage training day events
 - 20 remediation sites monitored



Objective 2 commitments

- By June 2026, Ngāti Toa Rangatira will have assessed the health of taonga freshwater species and completed fish passage restoration work in waterways within their rōhe in the Wellington region.
- Key activities under objective 2:
 - Employment of a Kaitiaki monitor
 - Fish passage assessments
 - 40 Fish passage remediation projects